

## Compositae News

JOHN F. PRUSKI  
 Missouri Botanical Garden  
 P.O. Box 299  
 St. Louis, MO 63166-0299, USA

### GRAZIELA MACIEL BARROSO (1912–2003)

Dra. GRAZIELA MACIEL BARROSO, the world's leading authority on Brazilian Compositae, died in Rio de Janeiro on 5 May 2003 at the age of 91. This remarkable woman was a contemporary of both ANGEL CABRERA and JOSÉ CUATRECASAS, the two other truly giant figures in South America synantherology of the last half century. Like Drs. CABRERA and CUATRECASAS, Dra. BARROSO lived and worked into her nineties. And like them, she will be remembered not only for her enormous professional contributions, but also for being a truly humble, kind, giving, gentle, and beautiful spirit.

I was always immensely pleased to receive letters from her, these always written in hand and mailed from her home address in Pedra de Guaratiba. It was in such a letter dated 20 February 1989 that she wrote "sua *Calea lutea* e a minha *Calea saddiana* sejam a mesma especie" and told me that *Calea lutea* (published 8 Dec 1988) had priority of two weeks over her name. During visits, she happily answered my many queries preliminary to the Compositae flora of Guayana. She did the same for a legion of admirers. She made friends wherever she traveled, was the acknowledged "First Lady of Brazilian Botany," as well as the unofficial "owner of the Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro."

"Doutora GRAZIELA" (she was also affectionately called "Dona GRAZIELA") was born in Corumbá, Mato Grosso, Brazil, on 11 April 1912. In 1942, she began her 60-year association with the Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. Her husband was also employed at the Jardim Botânico, where he worked as an agronomist although a systematist at heart. Tragically, her son died during her second year of college, and she out lived her husband as well. Although Doutora GRAZIELA worked extensively with Araceae, Dioscoreaceae, Leguminosae, Myrtaceae, and Scrophulariaceae, more than half of the one hundred plus species she described were Compositae. Noteworthy papers in families other than Compositae include her treatments of the Leguminosae of Guanabara (68 pages, dated 1965), Scrophulariaceae of Santa Catarina (114 pages, dated 1970), and the multi-authored Dioscoreaceae of Guanabara (245 pages, dated in

1974). During the last years of her life, she had spent much time revising Myrtaceae of Rio de Janeiro.

In the Compositae she described new genera in several tribes: Astereae (*Baccharidopsis*), Eupatorieae (*Monogeron* and *Praxeliopsis*), Heliantheae (*Angelphytum* and *Brasilia*), and Vernonieae (*Alcantara* and *Glaziovanthus*). Of these genera, only *Monogeron* was not solely authored by her, being co-described with ROBERT KING, a founding editor of the Compositae Newsletter. Doutora GRAZIELA honored her friend and colleague ANGEL CABRERA by dedicating the new genus *Angelphytum* to him in the *Homenaje a ANGEL L. CABRERA* published in Bol. Soc. Argentina Bot. volume 19 in 1980. Similarly, in this same volume JOSÉ CUATRECASAS dedicated the Colombian *Cabreriella* to ANGEL CABRERA. Drs. BARROSO, CABRERA, and CUATRECASAS indeed formed an elite botanical triumvirate.

The well known "*Mikaniae do Brasil*" was published in 1958, while Doutora GRAZIELA was an undergraduate student. Her first new genus was described in the 1949, nearly 10 years earlier. In tribe Stiffiieae (or Mutisieae s. lat.), she is known for her fine revision coauthored with BASSETT MAGUIRE of the strange genus *Wunderlichia*, endemic to the Brazilian Planalto yet most closely related to genera from the Guayana Highland. She received her Bachelor degree from the Universidade do Estadual do Rio de Janeiro in 1961. In 1973, at the age of 61, she earned her PhD from Universidade Estadual de Campinas. Her dissertation "*Compositae - Subtribo Baccharidinae HOFFMANN - Estudo das espécies ocorrentes no Brasil*" was defended on 18 December 1973 and published in *Rodriguesia* (28: 3-273) in 1976.

Over the span of her career, Doutora GRAZIELA served on 60 Master degree committees and on 15 PhD committees. She was professor and chairman of the Departamento de Biologia Vegetal da Universidade de Brasília from its inception until 1969. Although she officially retired in 1982 at the age of 70, she continued to work daily. When I visited her at the Jardim Botânico in Rio de Janeiro, she graciously presented me with her three-volume magnum opus "*Sistemática de Angiospermas do Brasil*." That she worked well in to her retirement can be seen by the fact that last two volumes of "*Sistemática de Angiospermas do Brasil*" were published after she retired in 1982. These volumes are essential references and include not only descriptions, but also illustrations and keys to genera! "*Frutos e Sementes*," her fourth book, was published in 1999. It, just as was her "*Sistemática*," is a co-authored volume, with Doutora GRAZIELA again the first author. Appropriately, Doutora GRAZIELA's fifth book (2002's *Compostas 5. subtribo Baccharidinae* in the Flora Ilustrada Catarinense series) was dedicated solely to Compositae.

Doutora GRAZIELA was honored several times during her life, and was the feature of several popular articles in Brazilian magazines. The genus *Barrosoa* is named in her honor, as is the Herbário "GRAZIELA BARROSO" of the Universidade Federal do Piauí,

which was dedicated in 1987. In 1958, she was awarded the "Medalha de Mérito D. João VI, Comemorativa do Sesquicentenário da Fundação" from the Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro. She was given the "Título de Cidadã do Estado do Rio de Janeiro" (the equivalent of the "Key to the City" in the United States) by the legislature of Rio de Janeiro in 1980. The national awards "Grau de Cavaleiro da Ordem Nacional do Mérito Educativo" and the "Diploma da Ordem Nacional do Mérito Científico, na Classe Grã-Cruz" were bestowed upon her in 1980. In the year that she published her fourth book, she was one of only eight recipients (and the sole from Brazil) of the "Millennium Botany Award" given by the 1999 International Botanical Congress in St. Louis. Earlier this year she was elected into the Academia Brasileira de Ciências and the formal induction ceremony was to have taken place on 4 June 2003.

For several generations Doutora GRAZIELA MACEIL BARROSO has been a tremendous positive botanical force. Thankfully, her influence is so strong that despite the very sad news of her death, her presence will be felt by future generations. She was truthfully one for the ages.